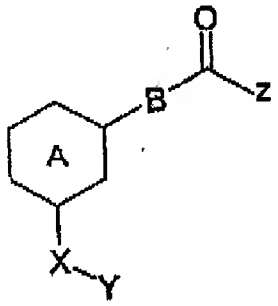
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically ~~phannaceutically~~ acceptable salt thereof,



wherein

Z is ~~OR^1 or~~ NR^1R^2 wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently H, or a hydrocarbyl group;

X-Y is selected from

$-C\equiv C-(CH_2)_p-Y$

$-C(R^5)=C(R^6)-(CH_2)_q-Y$; and

$-C(R^5)(R^6)C(R^7)(R^8)-(CH_2)_r-Y$;

wherein each of R^5, R^6, R^7, and R^8 is independently H or alkyl, and each of p, q and r is independently 2, 3, or 4

~~X is an alkylene, alkenylene, or alkynylene group, each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from alkyl, COOH, CO_2-alkyl, akenyl, CN, NH_2, hydroxy, halo, alkoxy, CF_3, and nitro~~;

Y is a polar functional group selected from OH, NO_2, CN, COR.[3], $COOR^3$, NR^3R^4,

$CONR^3R^4$, SO_3H, $\underline{SO_2\text{-}R^3}$~~$SO_2$-R3~~, $SO_2NR^3R^4$ and CF_3, where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group;

A is phenyl ~~or pyridyl~~; and

B is $(CH_2)_n$ where n is 0;

with the proviso that:

(i) when A is phenyl, and Z is OH, X-Y is other than $C\equiv C\text{-}(CH_2)_2OH$, $C\equiv C\text{--}(CH_2)_2OH$, $C\equiv C\text{-}(CH_2)_2CO_2Me$, $(CH_2)_4CO_2H$; and

(ii) when A is phenyl, and Z is OMe, X-Y is other than $C\equiv C\text{-}(CH_2)_4OH$; $\text{-}(CH_2)_4\text{-}CHO$, *cis*-CH=CH-$(CH_2)_3OH$, *trans*-CH=CH-$(CH_2)_3OH$;

and wherein the compound is other <u>than</u> ~~thann~~ 1-(N-octylcarbamoyl)methyl-3-carboxmidopyridinuim chloride, 3 -methylcarbamoyl-1-dodecyloxycarbonylmethyl-pyridinium or 6-aminomethylpyridine-2-carboxylic acid ethyl ester.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from [[ON]]<u>CN</u>, OH, $COOR^3$, $SO_2NR^3R^4$, $CONR^3R^4$, where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein each of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is independently H, an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a cycloalkyl group, each of which may be optionally substituted.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from OH, CN, $COOR^3$, $CONR^3R^4$, where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is selected from OH, CN, COOMe, COOH, $CONH_2$, CONHMe and $CONMe_2$.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is selected from

$-C\equiv C-(CH_2)_p-Y$; and

$-CH=CH-(CH_2)_q-Y$;

wherein each of p and q is independently 2, 3 or 4.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim [[6]]1 wherein X-Y is

cis-$C(R^5)=C(R^6)-(CH_2)_q-Y$ and q is 2, 3 or 4.

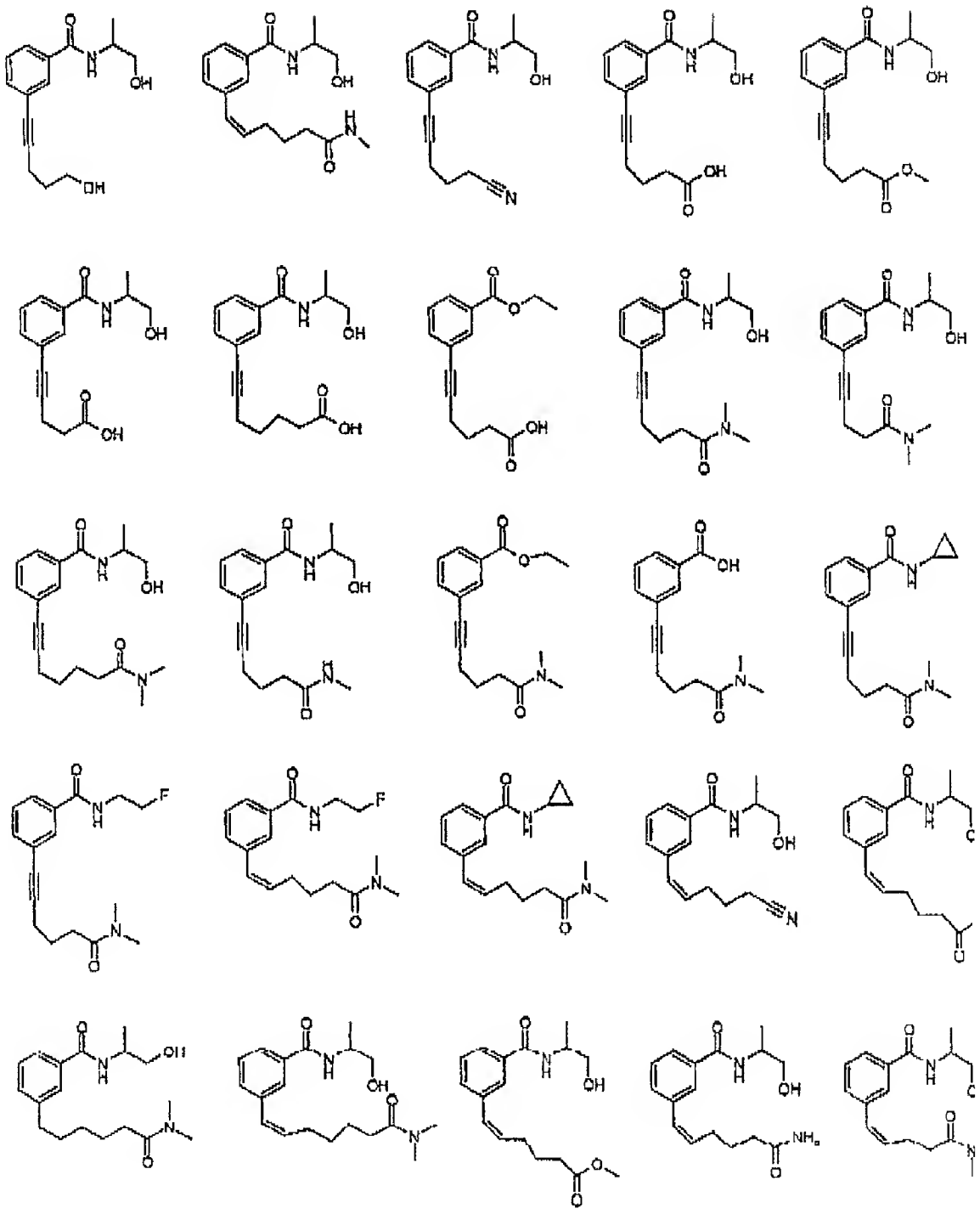
9. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X-Y is $-C(Me)_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_r-Y$ and r is 2, 3 or 4.

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is phenyl.

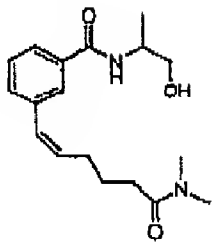
11. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is OR^1 or NR^1R_2 and each of R^1 and R^2 is independently H, an alkyl or a cycloalkyl group, each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more OH or halogen groups.

12. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z is selected from OH, OEt, $NHCH_2CH_2F$, NH-cyclopropyl, $NHCH(Me)CH_2OH$ and $NHCH_2CH_2OH$

13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1 which is selected from the following:

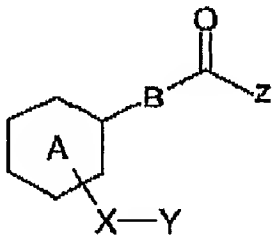


14. (Original) The compound of claim 13 which is



15. (Original) The compound of claim 14 which is in the form of a racemic mixture.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a muscular disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula Ia, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



Ia

wherein

Z is OR^1 or NR_1R_2 wherein each of R_1 and R_2 is independently H, or a hydrocarbyl group;

X is an alkylene, alkenylene, or alkynylene group, each of which may be optionally substituted;

Y is a polar functional group;

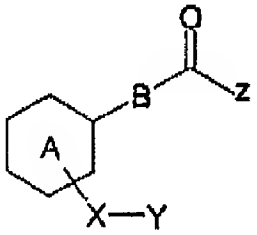
A is an aryl or heteroaryl group, each of which may be optionally substituted; and

B is $(CH_2)_n$ where n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or ~~5~~;

~~in the preparation of a medicament for treating a muscular disorder~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A method [[Use]] according to claim 16 wherein the muscular disorder is a neuromuscular disorder.

18. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating spasticity and tremors in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the subject ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula Ia, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



Ia

wherein

Z is OR^1 or NR^1R^2 wherein each of R^1 and R^2 is independently H, or a hydrocarbyl group;

X is an alkylene, alkenylene, or alkynylene group, each of which may be optionally substituted;

Y is a polar functional group;

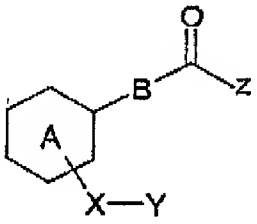
A is an aryl or heteroaryl group, each of which maybe optionally substituted; and

B is $(CH_2)_n$ where n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5~~;~~

~~in the preparation of a medicament for controlling spasticity and tremors~~.

19. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a gastrointestinal disorder in a subject in need thereof, said method comprising administering to the

subject ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula Ia, or a pharmaceutically ~~pharmaceutically~~ acceptable salt thereof,



Ia

wherein

Z is OR1 or NR1R2 wherein each of R1 and R2 is independently H, or a. hydrocarbyl group;

X is an alkylene, alkenylene, or alkynylene group, each of which may be optionally substituted;

Y is a polar functional group;

A is an aryl or heteroaryl group, each of which may be optionally substituted; and

B is (CH2)n where n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or ~~5;~~

~~in the preparation of a medicarnent for treating a gastrointestinal disorder~~.

20. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 19 wherein the gastrointestinal disorder is a gastric ulcer.

21. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 19 wherein the gastrointestinal disorder is Crohn's disease.

22. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 19 wherein the gastrointestinal disorder is secretory diarroehea.

23. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 19 wherein the gastrointestinal disorder is paralytic ileus.

24. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein said modulator selectively modulates peripheral cannabinoid receptors.

25. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein said compound selectively modulates peripheral cannabinoid receptors over central cannabinoid receptors.

26. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein the compound binds substantially exclusively to peripheral cannabinoid receptors.

27. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein the compound is a cannabinoid receptor agonist.

28. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein the compound does not substantially agonise central cannabinoid receptors.

29. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein the compound is substantially excluded from the CNS.

30. (Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein Y is selected from NO_2, CN, OR^3, COR^3, $COOR^3$, NR^3R^4, $CONR^3R^4$, SO_3H, SO_2-R^3, $SO_2NR^3R^4$ and CF_3, where each of R^3 and R^4 ~~NO2, CN, OR3, COR3, COOR3, NR3R4, CONR3R4, SO3H, SO2-R3, SO2NR3R4 and CF3, where each of R3 and R4~~ is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

31. (Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]compound according to claim 16 wherein Y is selected from CN, COOR3, $SO_2NR^3R^4$, $CONR^3R^4$, where each of R^3 and R^4 is independently H or a hydrocarbyl group.

32. (Currently Amended) A method [[Use]]according to claim 16 wherein the compound is as defined in any one of claims 1-5 and 7-15.

33. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a disorder associated with the modulation of peripheral cannabinoid receptors, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

34. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 33 wherein said disorder is associated with peripheral cannabinoid receptor deactivation.

35. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 33 wherein the compound binds substantially agonise central cannabinoid receptors.

36. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 33 wherein the compound binds substantially exclusively to peripheral cannabinoid receptors.

37. (Withdrawn) A method according to any claim 33 wherein the compound is substantially excluded from the CNS.

38. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, admixed with pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier.

39. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) An assay method of identifying compounds capable of modulating cannabinoid receptor activity, said method comprising using ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula Ia, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt

thereof, as defined in claim 16 to identify said compounds ~~in an assay for identifying further compounds capable of modulating cannabinoid receptor activity~~.

40. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The method [[Use]]according to claim 39 wherein the assay is a competitive binding assay.